

Message Text

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22

ORIGIN IO-13

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AF-08 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 EB-07 OMB-01 /111 R

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APPROVED BY IO:JABAKER

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P R 212344Z SEP 76

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY DACCA

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 234361

E.O. 11652:GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UNGA, BG, IN

SUBJECT: FARAKKA BARRAGE DISPUTE AT UN

1. IN GENERAL COMMITTEE CONSIDERATION OF BANGLADESH-
SPONSORED ITEM, U.S. REPRESENTATIVE SHOULD VOTE FOR
INSCRIPTION. IF ISSUE IS JOINED BETWEEN INDIA AND
BANGLADESH OVER ASSIGNMENT TO POLITICAL COMMITTEE
(COMMITTEE I -- BANGLADESHI PREFERENCE) OR TO ECONOMIC
COMMITTEE (COMMITTEE II -- INDIAN PREFERENCE), U.S.
SHOULD SUPPORT ASSIGNMENT TO SECOND COMMITTEE. USG
HAS NO INTEREST AT THIS POINT IN BEING DRAWN INTO
SUBSTANCE OF THIS QUESTION, SO THAT U.S. REP SHOULD
NOT SPEAK OR WORK BEHIND THE SCENES ON THIS ISSUE.
WE FURTHER SEE NO NEED TO TIP OUR HAND BEFORE VOTE ON
COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENT AS THIS WOULD ONLY ENCOURAGE BOTH
SIDES TO REDOUBLE THEIR LOBBYING WITH US.

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2. FOLLOWING CONSIDERATION IN GENERAL COMMITTEE,
MISSION MAY USE FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS IN PRIVATELY
EXPLAINING U.S. VOTES TO INDIAN AND BANGLADESHI
COLLEAGUES:

--THE USG HAS SUPPORTED INSCRIPTION OF THIS ITEM IN
LINE WITH OUR LONG-STANDING POLICY IN REGARD TO THE
RIGHTS OF MEMBER STATES TO ADDRESS ISSUES THEY DEEM
IMPORTANT AT THE UN.

--THE USG SUPPORTED ASSIGNMENT OF THE ITEM TO THE
ECONOMIC COMMITTEE WHERE WE BELIEVE THERE MAY BE A
BETTER CHANCE THAT TECHNICAL AND PRACTICAL ISSUES
INVOLVED WILL BE USEFULLY DISCUSSED AND CONSIDERED.
THIS SEEMED PREFERABLE TO ASSIGNMENT TO COMMITTEE I
WHERE THE POTENTIAL FOR POLITICAL CONFRONTATION SEEMED
GREATER.

3. FOR DACCA AND NEW DELHI: YOU MAY WISH TO DRAW
ON POINTS IN PARAGRAPH 2 ABOVE IN EXPLAINING OUR
VOTES TO HOST GOVERNMENTS.

ROBINSON

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